

1 Sub A } 1. A method comprising:
2 storing an advertisement for playback with
3 content; and
4 automatically replacing said stored
5 advertisement.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein storing an
2 advertisement for playback with content includes storing an
3 advertisement in a separate memory location from said
4 content.

1 3. The method of claim 2 including providing a
2 marker in said content to indicate where the advertisement
3 should be inserted.

1 4. The method of claim 3 including providing a
2 pointer with said marker to locate the advertisement in
3 memory.

1 5. The method of claim 4 including playing back
2 stored content, identifying said marker and accessing the
3 advertisement using said pointer.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein storing an
2 advertisement includes determining whether an advertisement
3 to be stored was previously stored.

1 7. The method of claim 6 including maintaining a
2 list of stored advertisements and comparing information
3 about a new advertisement to information about
4 advertisements listed on said advertisements list.

1 8. The method of claim 7 including only storing an
2 advertisement if it was not previously stored.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein replacing said
2 stored advertisement includes updating said stored
3 advertisement.

1 10. The method of claim 9 including obtaining
2 information about when to update stored advertisements and
3 automatically updating said stored advertisements in
4 accordance with said information.

1 11. The method of claim 9 including periodically,
2 automatically updating said stored advertisements.

1 12. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3 store an advertisement for playback with content;
4 and
5 automatically replace said stored advertisement.

1 13. The article of claim 12 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 store an advertisement and content in separate memory
4 locations.

1 14. The article of claim 13 further storing
2 instructions that enable said processor-based system to
3 provide a marker in said content to indicate where the
4 advertisement should be inserted.

1 15. The article of claim 14 further storing
2 instructions that enable said processor-based system to
3 provide a pointer with said marker to locate the
4 advertisement in memory.

1 16. The article of claim 15 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 playback stored content, identify said marker, and access
4 the advertisement using said pointer.

1 17. The article of claim 12 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 determine whether an advertisement to be stored was
4 previously stored.

1 18. The article of claim 17 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 maintain a list of stored advertisements and compare
4 information about a new advertisement to information about
5 advertisements listed on said advertisements list.

1 19. The article of claim 18 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to only
3 store an advertisement if it was not previously stored.

1 20. The article of claim 12 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 automatically update said stored advertisement.

1 21. The article of claim 20 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 obtain information about when to update stored
4 advertisements and automatically update said stored
5 advertisements in accordance with said information.

1 22. The article of claim 20 further storing
2 instructions that enable said processor-based system to
3 periodically, automatically update said stored
4 advertisement.

1 23. A system comprising:
2 a processor-based device;
3 a first random access storage, coupled to said
4 processor-based device, to store content;
5 a second random access storage, coupled to said
6 processor-based device, to store an advertisement for
7 playback with content; and
8 a third random access storage, coupled to said
9 processor-based device, to store instructions to enable
10 said device to automatically replace said stored
11 advertisement.

1 24. The system of claim 23 wherein said system is a
2 set-top box.

1 25. The system of claim 23 wherein said first, second
2 and third storages are part of the same memory.

1 26. The system of claim 23 wherein said third storage
2 further stores instructions that enable said device to
3 automatically provide a marker in said content to indicate
4 where an advertisement should be inserted during playback
5 of the content.

1 27. The system of claim 23 wherein said third storage
2 further stores instructions that enable said device to

3 determine whether an advertisement to be stored was
4 previously stored.

1 28. The system of claim 27 wherein said third storage
2 stores instructions to enable said device to maintain a
3 list of stored advertisements and compare information about
4 a new advertisement to information about advertisements
5 listed on said advertisements list.

1 29. The system of claim 28 wherein said device only
2 stores advertisements that were not previously stored.

1 30. The system of claim 23 wherein said third storage
2 stores instructions that enable said device to obtain
3 information about when to update stored advertisements and
4 automatically update said advertisements in accordance with
5 the information.

1 31. The system of claim 23 wherein said third storage
2 stores instructions that enable the device to automatically
3 update said stored advertisement.

1 32. The system of claim 23 including a connection to
2 a television distribution system.

1 33. A method comprising:
2 storing an advertisement for playback with
3 content; and
4 determining whether an advertisement to be stored
5 was previously stored.

1 34. The method of claim 33 including maintaining a
2 list of stored advertisements and comparing information
3 about a new advertisement to information about
4 advertisements listed on said advertisements list.

1 35. The method of claim 33 including only storing an
2 advertisement if it was not previously stored.

1 36. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3 store an advertisement for playback with content;
4 and
5 determine whether an advertisement to be stored
6 was previously stored

1 37. The article of claim 36 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 maintain a list of stored advertisements and compare
4 information about a new advertisement to information about
5 advertisements listed on said advertisements list.

1 38. The article of claim 35 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to only
3 store an advertisement if it was not previously stored.

1 39. A system comprising:
2 a processor-based device;
3 a first random access storage, coupled to said
4 processor-based device, to store content;
5 a second random access storage, coupled to said
6 processor-based device, to store an advertisement for
7 playback with content; and
8 a third random access storage, coupled to said
9 processor-based device, to store instructions to enable
10 said device to automatically determine whether an
11 advertisement to be stored was previously stored.

1 40. The system of claim 39 wherein said device only
2 stores advertisements that were not previously stored.

1 41. The system of claim 40 wherein said third storage
2 stores instructions that enable the processor-based device
3 to maintain a list of stored advertisements and compare
4 information about a new advertisement to information about
5 advertisements listed on said advertisements list.

1 42. The system of claim 41 wherein said third storage
2 further stores instructions that enable the processor-based
3 device to only store an advertisement if it was not
4 previously stored.